

December 15, 2008

## **DRINKING WATER WARNING**

### **Tier 1 Situation-Potential Health Effects**

#### **RIVER ROCK COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DIST Public Water Supply System**

- On November 24, 2008, the River Rock County Water and Sewer Dist Public Water Supply System (PWS) lost the use of well #1 after problems occurred with power supplied to the pump which subsequently failed. Attempts to remove and replace the pump resulted in half of the pump being removed and the other half remained in the well preventing the well from being brought back on-line.
- On the evening of December 14, 2008 well #2 failed as well resulting in a loss of water and pressure throughout the system.
- River Rock County Water and Sewer Dist PWS was required to provide full-time disinfection of the system. The power supply for the chlorinator is tied to the operation of well 1 and therefore the chlorinator for this system has been off-line since the use of well #1 was lost in November.
- These events may have led to the introduction of multiple contaminants in the drinking water through back siphoning; these contaminants may include total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria and various chemicals.

#### **What does this mean?**

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** For concerned individuals, water that is boiled vigorously for at least one (1) minute can be considered safe for consumption; bottled water is also an option.
- This health advisory will remain in effect until corrective measures have been completed and follow-up samples indicate the system meets State and Federal safe drinking water standards.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### **What is being done?**

Steps are being taken to immediately restore water pressure as quickly as possible. These steps include:

1. Sampling for Total Coliform Bacteria,
2. Flushing the water lines,
3. Disinfecting the system which may lead to elevated levels of chlorine in tap water.

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria or chemical contamination. We anticipate resolving the problem within one week.

For more information, please contact Steve Rude at 406-581-7644 or 265 North River Rock Dr, Belgrade, MT 59714. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes and nitrates/nitrites are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by River Rock County Water and Sewer Dist.  
State Water System ID#: MT0004082. Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_.